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California Environmental Protection Agency

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# **Environmental Crime Fighters Assist Rural Counties**

The California District Attorneys Association and environmental protection officials have embarked on a plan to send additional prosecutors to help local government fight environmental crime in rural California. CDAA's Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project will boost prosecution of environmental offenders in 32 rural counties.

"The open spaces and limited resources of our rural counties make them particularly vulnerable to environmental crime," says CDAA President George Kennedy. "We hope that CDAA can assist local prosecutors not only in addressing specific instances of environmental crime, but also in training a core group of public employees who can work together in making our environment safer."

For the past two and a half years, CDAA, Cal/EPA, and several U.S. Attorney Offices have worked with local task forces to significantly increase environmental investigations and prosecutions. However, large numbers of environmental cases—involving water pollution, violation of air district rules, illegal solid waste disposal and fish and wildlife issues—remain unaddressed because task force members lacked the training needed.

The Circuit Prosecutor Project, a joint effort of CDAA, Cal/EPA, U.S. EPA and the California Department of Fish and Game, will provide rural District Attorney's Offices with the training needed to increase the overall effectiveness of environmental enforcement. Five regional "circuit prosecutors" will coordinate and provide training to existing multi-county environmental enforcement task forces. Their activities will focus on

"a major step towards ...consistent enforcement of California's environmental laws."

Peter M. Rooney, CallEPA

the following counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, Shasta, Tehama, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Glenn, Colusa, Butte, Sutter, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Alpine, San Benito, Merced, Stanislaus, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras,

Mono, Inyo, Madera and Kings. Circuit prosecutors will serve other counties as requested.

"No one should profit from polluting the environment," insists California Secretary for Environmental Protection Peter M. Rooney. "This project is a major step towards uniform, aggressive and consistent enforcement of California's environmental laws. It will serve notice to any who believe they can gain an economic advantage by not complying fully with California's environmental laws. The circuit prosecutors will help to level the playing field in rural areas... and...deter future offenses."

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Illegal drug labs cause serious environmental damage in rural areas. The Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project aims to prosecute and prevent such crimes.

## FROM MY CORNER

Peter M. Rooney, Secretary for Environmental Protection

I know it's been awhile since our last newsletter, but we've been making some changes and we hope you like its new look. Most of the change is reflected in the Agency's efforts to make more information available through the ever-expanding and accessible Internet. You'll notice most of the articles will invite



you to seek more information at a website address. We also recognize this technology is not always available to everyone, and please be assured that you can pick up the phone or visit us in person to get the information you need.

All of what we do — from preventing pollution to assisting with compliance and encouraging the use and development of new technology - relies on getting timely and understandable information to those who need it. That was a fundamental purpose of establishing Permit Assistance Centers throughout the state and the motivation for our California Government: On-Line to Desktops (CalGOLD) concept. CalGOLD provides an electronic bridge between businesses seeking to establish or expand new enterprises and state, regional and local permitting staff across the state via the Internet. In this way, we ensure compliance with environmental standards while clearing out the mysteries of the permit process.

Also on the compliance front, we are very excited about the inauguration of our circuit prosecutor program (see article on page 1). Under the guidance of Gerald Johnston, our Enforcement Coordinator, this program will help boost prosecution of environmental polluters, particularly in California's rural areas where resources and environmental legal expertise may be stretched thin. Of particular concern is the environmental damage caused by illegal drug labs. This program should go a long way to vigorously prosecuting those who would flaunt the law in such a dangerous way.

We are striving for excellence and quality in all that we do at Cal/EPA. Part of that process is to know what our stakeholders — our customers — think. Please let me know what you think of Environment or any issue involving our environmental initiatives. My mailing address is: 555 Capitol Mall, Suite 525, Sacramento, California 95814 or send e-mail to cepacomm@calepa.ca.gov.

## "Brick Breaking" Ceremony for New Cal/EPA Building

Representatives from Cal/EPA, the State and Consumer Services Agency, the Dept. of General Services, the State Treasurer's Office, the City of Sacramento and developers of the planned Cal/EPA office building gathered on June 24 to formally kick off construction with a "brick breaking" ceremony. A brick parking structure on the site will be razed, with the rubble recycled into materials used to construct the 25-story office.

A consultant has also been retained to help identify additional "green" opportunities for enhancing the building with environmentally advanced features. For more information, check out Cal/EPA's website (www.calepa.ca.gov) or contact the Office of External Affairs at (916) 323-2520.

### **Business Permit Info Now** Online with CalGOLD

After a year of research and planning, Cal/EPA has introduced an internet-accessible information system that will help businesses identify needed permits and other requirements at all levels of government. California Government: On-Line to Desktops, or CalGOLD, is available on the Internet or through any of the state's Permit Assistance Centers.

Cal/EPA Secretary Rooney noted that, through the database, "We are using the power and time-saving capacities of the Internet to better serve both the environment and the economy."

For more information or to view the system, please visit the CalGOLD website at www.calgold.ca.gov/ or contact the Permit Assistance Center nearest you by calling toll-free (800) GOV-1-STOP (800-468-1768).

#### **O ENVIRONMENT**

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Lou Smallwood, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs

loe Irvin, Editor

Cal/EPA includes the Air Resources Board, Integrated Waste Management Board, State Water Resources Control Board,

Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Comments, suggestions or address changes can be made via fax at (916) 445-5563 or e-mail at cepacomm@calepa.ca.gov.

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#### **AIR RESOURCES BOARD**

## "Smog Check" for Diesel Trucks and Buses Begins

A new California program to inspect heavy duty diesel trucks and buses for excessive smoke began June 1. ARB conducts the inspections at California Highway Patrol weigh stations and other roadside locations out of the flow of traffic.

Gasoline-powered passenger cars and pickup trucks have been subject to routine Smog Checks since 1984, points out ARB Chairman John Dunlap. "Trucks and buses, like the millions of cars on the road, are now expected to keep their engines running well to minimize emissions and maximize the effectiveness of our clean-air strategy for mobile sources."

A related program, the Periodic Smoke Inspection Program, begins July 1 and requires fleet operators to self-inspect their trucks once a year and repair any vehicles not meeting the emission standards. Fully implemented, the programs will remove about 24 tons of pollutants a day from California's air. For information, check http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/hdvip/hdvip.htm.

#### Forums Focus on Fine Particles

From April through June, ARB hosted a forum series on the emerging challenge of reducing or preventing  $PM_{2.5}$  (particulate matter, or PM, as small as 2.5 microns) air pollution. California must develop State Implementation Plans to reduce  $PM_{2.5}$  in areas violating the new federal air quality standards as well as improve visibility in national parks. The forums provided information on  $PM_{2.5}$  and an avenue for public comment.

Forums were held in Sacramento, Ventura, San Diego, Placerville, Concord, Fresno, Bakersfield, Riverside, Palm Desert, and Colusa. Information about fine particle pollution can be found on the ARB web site at http://www.arb.ca.gov/pm25/pm25.htm.



ARB's "The Air We Breathe" exhibit was on display at Orange County's John Wayne Airport from January through April.

# ARB Receives Award for Air Quality Campaign

ARB and four local air agencies have received the 1997 Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Award from the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance for their participation in last winter's air quality education ad campaign entitled "Success Is In The Air."

CCEEB recognized ARB, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Bay Area AQMD, the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District "for their ability to champion the belief that economic development and environmental protection are necessary for a healthy society and a strong economy."

The award is named after CCEEB's Founding Chairman, and honors individuals or organizations whose activities exemplify the spirit of environmental and economic balance.

## Exhibit Debuts at Gate No. 6

Passengers arriving at Gate 6 in Orange County's John Wayne Airport couldn't miss ARB's "The Air We Breathe" exhibit. The colorful, 25 foot exhibit highlights the achievements and challenges of California's fight against dirty air. Developed by ARB's Office of Communications, the exhibit opened at the airport in January.

The exhibit is currently on display at the San Diego International Airport. It's scheduled to travel to L.A. International Airport in late July and then to Northern California in the Fall.

#### **New CD-ROM Delivers Air Data**

ARB has developed a CD-ROM with 17 years of California ambient air quality data and statistics (1980-1996). It includes an easy-to-use data viewer, color relief map overlays, and boundary lines for air basins and counties throughout California. The CD-ROM is free while supplies last and can be ordered by e-mail from ARB at: AQDCD@arb.ca.gov.

#### OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT

## OEHHA to Release Developmental Plan for Ecological Risk Assessment Guidelines

In environmental regulation and decision-making, ecological risk assessment (ERA) is increasingly used to characterize and predict adverse effects of chemical pollutants and other ecological stressors. ERA is of primary importance to promote consistency, efficiency, and scientific rigor in ERAs conducted or reviewed by Cal/EPA Boards and Departments. One strategic activity in support of this goal is the development of broad, agency-wide ERA guidelines by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). These Cal/EPA ERA guidelines are intended to accommodate the wide range of assessments undertaken by the Cal/EPA Boards and Departments, including air and water quality, hazardous waste and pesticide assessments, and will provide information on available ERA methods that may be adopted by Cal/EPA Boards and Departments.

Following a series of public workshops, OEHHA drafted the Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Risks Posed by Chemicals - Developmental Plan. The primary purpose of the Developmental Plan is to describe the conceptual approach for the development of Cal/EPA ERA guidelines and to introduce the specific topics for which guidance will initially be developed. Briefly, the Cal/EPA guidelines will build upon the U.S. EPA Proposed Guidelines for Ecological Risk Assessment (September, 1996) by providing supplemental guidance and technical resources in areas such as endpoint selection, toxicity extrapolation, measurement endpoint methods and exposure factors, emphasizing California wildlife species. The Developmental Plan has been reviewed by the Ecotoxicology Interagency Workgroup (a workgroup with representatives from various Cal/EPA Boards and Departments and the Resources Agency), external peer reviewers, and the public (see California Regulatory Notice Register, November 21,1997). The final Developmental Plan is available on the OEHHA Home Page at www.calepa.ca.gov/oehha/.

#### INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

## Top 10 Companies Honored for Reducing, Recycling Waste

Ten companies whose individual waste reduction and recycling efforts made significant inroads in cutting California's 52-million-ton annual waste stream were honored by the Integrated Waste Management Board, the state's primary recycling agency.

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Waste Board Chair Daniel G. Pennington presents a Waste Reduction Award to Gary Credle, President, and Shelley Billik, Director of Recycling and Environmental Initiatives, at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank.

The companies, scattered throughout the state, saved more than \$1 million in avoided disposal costs and from selling items they recycled, and diverted thousands of tons of wastes from landfills.

"In California, hundreds of businesses are making the time and effort to reduce and recycle their waste materials," said Waste Board Chairman Daniel G. Pennington. "These 10 represent the tip of a waste management iceberg with the potential to make titanic changes in the way California handles its garbage and help cut its trash in half by the year 2000."

California's 1997 Top 10 Waste Reduction Award Program (WRAP) winners were Fetzer Vineyards of Hopland, Hewlett-Packard Company of Cupertino, Hillside Press in Rolling Hills Estates, Imation Corporation of Camarillo, Pepsi Cola Bottling of Fresno, the Plaza Camino Real Shopping Center in Carlsbad, the San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Sea World of San Diego, St. Bernardine Medical Center in San Bernardino, and Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank.

Top 10 continued (page 5)

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION**

### **U.S./Mexico Pesticide Conference**

Environmental issues transcend national borders, Cal/EPA Secretary Peter M. Rooney told environmental officials at a recent U.S./Mexico Pesticide Information Exchange Conference held in San Diego.

"Conferences such as this one promote understanding of our environmental programs and improve contacts between our agencies," said Rooney, who emphasized continuing state, federal, and international efforts to encourage cooperation for environmental progress.

Rooney and Department of Pesticide Regulation Director James W. Wells delivered introductory remarks to about 50 participants. Conference goals include establishing contacts between key pesticide information officials and exchanging information on their respective organizations.

DPR Director Wells observed that Mexico exports a significant amount of produce to the United States, and California in particular. He noted that American consumers receive most of their winter vegetables from Mexico. "A continuous, year-round supply of fresh produce helps stabilize markets, aiding both Mexican growers and U.S. growers," as well as benefitting consumers, said Wells.

At the same time, Wells noted that food safety issues — such as bacteria and pesticide residues — are a source of continuing concern for American consumers. Those concerns are mirrored in state and federal statutes — such as the Food

Quality Protection Act (FQPA) — that focus on pesticide residues in foods consumed by infants, children, and pregnant women, among other issues.

Officials at the conference recognized that FQPA and other legislative mandates may result in reevaluation of some widely-used pesticides, tighter tolerances, and more intense residue monitoring for produce. That could have a significant impact on Mexican growers who export to the United States, the participants agreed.

#### A Headline Ditty That'll Make You Giddy

DPR wins the clever award for a recent news release—one that contained valuable and environmentally-friendly tips on pest control. "Spring Has Sprung, El Nino's Quit, Don't Let Pests Give You a Fit" can be found on their website under news releases, or call their Public Information Office at (916) 445-3974.

Other discussions at the conference focussed on Mexico's pesticide registration process and pesticide label requirements. In Mexico, pesticide labels are color coded by toxicity level.

For more information, please visit DPR's website at www.cdpr.ca.gov.

#### ...Top 10 continued

Accomplishments of some of the top 10 companies included:

- Hewlett-Packard of Cupertino, in Santa Clara County, saved \$300,000 in disposal costs and donated 20,000 furniture
  pieces and 25,000 used binders to schools and groups around the state. Its recycling programs have nearly quadrupled
  since 1995. The computer company currently diverts 70 percent of its trash.
- Hillside Press, a small printing company in Rolling Hills Estates of Los Angeles County, recycles the waste paper, cans, plastics, cardboard, newspaper, phone books, and magazines it uses. The company uses recycled-content paper almost exclusively for its printing jobs.
- The San Francisco Hilton and Towers saves \$500,000 annually in energy costs, by installing motion detectors in 570 rooms, electrical load-shedding devices in air-circulation units, and a laundromat wastewater reclamation system. It recycles 101 tons of cardboard, 57 tons of aluminum and glass, 48 tons of paper, and salvages 61,000 gallons of machine oil yearly.
- Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank netted more than \$234,000 in disposal cost savings and recycles 1,700 tons of materials annually.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

## Mather Field Agreement Speeds Land Transfer

Cal/EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control has approved a plan to provide for the early transfer of 25-acres of land at the former Mather Field Air Force Base to Sacramento County for redevelopment and job creation.

The agreement, signed by Governor Pete Wilson on April 9, 1998, is the first of its kind at a closing military base in California. The agreement deferral request by the Air Force is the result of legislation which allows the federal government to transfer property that still has hazardous substance contamination to a non-federal entity as long as certain conditions are met and the governor of the state concurs. The transfer has also been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The 25-acre parcel is located in the main base area at Mather Field and includes the former base exchange building (which is now subleased by the county to McGraw-Hill, Incorporated) and a bank building recently demolished by the county. The rest of the parcel is vacant.

Secretary Rooney said the agreement "demonstrates the Wilson Administration's commitment to advance the military base re-use process and allows us to move property quickly into the Sacramento economy while ensuring proper environmental clean-up."

Mather Field closed in September 1993. The base is one of 29 military facilities to close or go through major realignment in California since 1988 when the first round of base closures was announced.

For more details on the cleanup agreement at Mather, visit the DTSC website at www.calepa.ca.gov/dtsc.

#### STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

## Compliance/Enforcement High Priority For SWRCB/RWQCBs

Ensuring consistent enforcement among all nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) was a high priority when the External Program Review of the State Water Resources Control Board's water quality programs was conducted in 1994.

That review, conducted by a variety of parties including dischargers, industry, agriculture and the environmental community, found that diligent, even-handed enforcement prevents pollution, encourages voluntary compliance by dischargers, and helps assure prompt cleanup and correction of violations. Furthermore, it eliminates the competitive economic advantage of non-compliance and represents a fair balance between environmental protection and economic considerations. On a specific recommendation from the review, the SWRCB adopted its Water Quality Enforcement Policy in 1996.

Since adoption of that policy, the SWRCB and Regional Boards have acted to enhance their compliance and enforcement capabilities. In fiscal year 1997-98, 20 new staff have been assigned in each of the nine regions and at the SWRCB to increase enforcement and compliance actions. This increased presence has resulted in more inspections of surface waters discharges and up to 50 additional enforcement actions in 1997-98. In the Governor's FY 1998-1999 budget, there is a proposal for an additional 14.3 staff for enforcement and inspection, including six to work on water rights issues.

It is important to recognize that the goal of compliance and enforcement efforts is to protect water quality, not count the number of enforcement actions. Goals for 1997-98 include increased efforts at protecting rivers from dairy runoff, reducing beach closures from sewage overflows, and continued work with local enforcement task forces.

Work is in progress to develop a statewide Compliance and Enforcement Strategy. Each Regional Board is reviewing its current efforts and will recommend suggestions for program improvements. This effort will result in a prioritization of enforcement activities and a strategy to meet those needs.

Other high priorities of this effort include improving tracking and reporting capabilities, coordination with U.S. EPA and Cal/EPA, conducting periodic rountable meetings with all SWRCB and Regional Board coordinators.

For further information on the SWRCB and Regional Boards' compliance assurance and enforcement activities, contact John Norton, Chief of the Unit at (916) 657-0522. His e-mail address is jnorton@exec.swrcb.ca.gov.

#### QUALITY IN GOVERNMENT

#### **Quality Resource Guide For Local Agencies**

Cal/EPA recently released "Quality Management: A Model For Local Agencies," a resource guide for local environmental regulatory agencies interested in implementing quality management principles and practices in their organization. Developed in response to Senate Bill 1082 (Statutes of 1993, Chapter 418, Calderon), the guide outlines:

- Considerations at Start-up
- Key Elements in a Quality Plan
- Getting Focused on the Customer
- Process Management
- **Educational Needs**
- Quality Resources

The guide can be downloaded from the Cal/EPA website: http://www.calepa.ca.gov. Also available for purchase are the following handbooks: Team Facilitator's Handbook, Guide to Performance Measurement for Quality Improvement Teams, Sponsor's Guide to Quality Teams, and Team Leader's Handbook. See the Cal/EPA website for price and ordering instructions or call (916) 445-3846.

#### **New Members for Advisory Group**

Cal/EPA added five new members to its external Quality Improvement Partnership Advisory Group. New members are Russell J. Bohart, Director of the Health and Welfare Data Center (HWDC) for the State of California; Lynne Edgerton, Member of the Air Resources Board; Denzil Verardo, Deputy Director for Administration for the Department of Parks and Recreation; Pete Williams, Assistant Director, Quality Management, at the Department of Parks and Recreation; and Jeff Palsgaard, Director of the Division of Environmental Health of Merced County.



Secretary Rooney tests electric bike at CallEPA Clean Air Month celebration.

#### **Permit Assistance Centers**

Lillian Conroe, Director **Business Revitalization Center** (213) 290-7100

Roberta James, Director Contra Costa Regional (925) 229-5950

Pete Ruggerello, Director

Fresno Area (209) 498-1343

Matt McCarron, Director

Greater Oakland

(510) 286-6993

Shereef Aref, Director

**Inland Empire** 

Ontario Office (909) 937-0723

Riverside Office

(909) 955-1883

Pete Ruggerello, Director

Kern County (805) 862-5175 Matt McCarron, Director North Bay (707) 527-2481

Danian Hopp, Director **Orange County** (714) 834-2840

Leslie Manderscheid, Director San Diego Regional

(619) 236-5938

Director

San Fernando Valley (818) 756-7572

Peter Frey, Director Santa Clara Valley (408) 277-1477

Danian Hopp, Director South Orange County (714) 461-3560

Boards

Craig Johnson (707) 576-2226

Will Bruhns

Paul Jagger

(510) 286-0838

(805) 549-3502

Catherine Tyrrell

(213) 266-7515 Tom Pinkos

(916) 255-3039

(530) 542-5410

Region 6 (Lahontan)

**Bob Dodds** 

Region 4 (Los Angeles)

Region 5 (Central Valley)

Regional Water Quality Control

Region 2 (San Francisco Bay)

Region 3 (Central Coast)

#### Cal/EPA Ombudsman Directory

Air Resources Board

Jim Schoning

(916) 323-6791

Nancy Steele (Deputy-South)

(626) 575-6973

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Regina Sarracino (Registration) (916) 324-3939

Kay Cummins (Licensing)

(916) 323-6133

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Southern California John Hinton

(714) 484-5365

Northern California Carol Northrup

(510) 540-3919

Integrated Waste Management Board

Chris Peck

(916) 255-2427

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Bev Passerello

(916) 324-1945

Cynthia Oshita

Proposition 65 Implementation (916) 445-6900

State Water Resources Control Board

Jim Bennett (916) 657-1287

**Gary Morris** 

Region 7 (Colorado River) (760) 776-8926

**Kurt Berchtold** 

Region 8 (Santa Ana) (909) 782-3286

Mike McCann

Region 9 (San Diego) (619) 467-2988

#### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Reporting an Environmental Accident/Incident

 Office of Emergency Services
 (916) 262-1621

 Warning Center
 (916) 262-1621

 Water Pollution
 1-800-952-5400

 South Coast AQMD
 1-800-CUT-SMOG

Reporting an Environmental Crime/Violation

6 an Environmental Crime, Columbia	
Toxics	(916) 324-2448
Illegal Handling of Hazardous Waste	1-800-69-TOXIC
Sacramento	(916) 255-3618
Berkeley	(510) 540-3739
Burbank	(818) 551-2800
Cyprus	(714) 484-5300
Air Pollution	(916) 322-6022 (916) 322-6034
Complaint Hot Line	1-800-952-5588
Water Pollution	1-800-952-5400
Landfills	(916) 255-2431
Pesticides	(916) 445-3920

#### **CAL/EPA BOARD & DEPARTMENT WEBSITES**

Cal/EPA

http://www.calepa.ca.gov

Air Resources Board

http://www.arb.ca.gov

**Integrated Waste Management Board** 

http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

http://www.calepa.ca.gov/oehha

Department of Pesticide Regulation

http://www.cdpr.ca.gov

State Water Resources Control Board

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov

**Department of Toxic Substances Control** 

http://www.calepa.ca.gov/dtsc/dtsc.htm

#### CAL/EPA ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE

1-800-CLEANUP (Nationwide)

http://www.1800cleanup.org

## SENVIRONMENT

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